

# National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information  
Letter



For N. C. A.  
Members

Membership Letter No. 72.

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## Proposal to Require Metal Strappings of Freight Containers.

The Committee on Freight Claim Prevention of the American Railway Association has just recently issued Information Bulletin #8, in which is set out certain information in connection with the number of containers repaired in transit, together with the statement that faulty packing and containers are costing the railways \$11,500,000 yearly. The bulletin contains the suggestion, as a remedy for the situation, of metal strapping of shipping containers.

It is felt desirable to bring this to the attention of the industry at this time, in view of the fact that exhaustive experiments conducted a few years ago by the Forest Products Laboratory demonstrated fully the serviceability of wooden containers when correctly nailed. The National Association of Box Manufacturers, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, has issued a chart showing the correct nailing as worked out in the above mentioned experiments.

## Board of Tax Appeals Appointed.

Under the provision of the Revenue Act of 1924, the President has appointed twelve members of the Board of Tax Appeals. The act provides that the board shall consist of seven members "except that for a period of two years after the enactment of this act the board shall be composed of such members, not more than twenty-eight, as the President determines to be necessary." It is probable the remaining members of the board will be appointed in the fall.

The industry will be advised as soon as the Board organizes.

## Fixing or Controlling Resale Price Violation of Law.

An order to cease and desist has been issued by the Federal Trade Commission against Pritchard & Constance, Inc., charged with a selling policy or system of merchandising whereby respondent, through cooperation with its customers, fixes or controls, or undertakes to fix or control, the price at which



its products shall be re-sold by others.

The order to cease and desist more particularly affects the following means:

1. By giving or offering to give special discounts, bonuses or terms of sale, to jobbers or retailers, conditional upon their observance of or promise to observe the resale prices fixed by respondent.
2. By otherwise contracting or entering into agreements or understandings with jobbers or retailers, providing for the maintenance of such prices.
3. By cooperation with its customers in establishing or maintaining a system of resale prices.
4. By utilizing any other cooperative means, directly or indirectly, to bring about the maintenance of the resale prices fixed by respondent.

Right of Buyer to Purchase from Whom He Pleases Sustained by the United States Supreme Court.

An interesting case, and one involving a question that occasionally arises in the merchandising of canned foods has just been carried to the Supreme Court.

The Federal Trade Commission filed a complaint against a grocer who refused to buy from a manufacturer because he sold direct to retail grocers. An order to cease and desist was issued by the Federal Trade Commission to the wholesale grocer. The grocer carried the case to the United States Court of Appeals who reversed the Federal Trade Commission order. On being carried to the United States Supreme Court, the lower court was sustained and the wholesale grocer vindicated and the law written that a buyer may purchase or decline to purchase with whom he pleases, with or without a reason therefor.

Canned Foods Again Vindicated.

The Association has just completed the investigation of two interesting outbreaks of alleged food poisoning, attributed to canned foods. In the first case, the death of a woman was reported to be due to ptomaine poisoning from canned pineapple. On looking into this matter through official sources, we have been able to secure a definite statement that the death was due to appendicitis and no mention is made of canned pineapple in the report.

The second case--a man was found unconscious at a railroad station and the newspaper report attributed his illness to canned fruit. He was taken to the hospital for treatment and we have a report from the local health official to the effect that this was a case of "moonshine poisoning".

The Association will take these reports up with the newspapers concerned, for the purpose of pointing out the injury done to the canning industry by such publications.

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